

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REP EJECTED FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN AND
OTHERS GROUP (WEOG) MEETING

1. JUST BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE 17 SEPT MEETING OF WEOG, THE JAPANESE REP, MR. TERADA, WAS APPROACHED BY THE CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR INGVARSSON OF ICELAND, WHO INFORMED HIM THAT HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE CHALLENGED. TERADA WHO WAS SITTING NEXT TO US REP ELECTED TO SIT IT OUT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING WAS OPENED, AMBASSADOR DE PINIES OF SPAIN CHALLENGED THE PRESENCE OF THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE, TRACED THE HISTORIC GROWTH OF THE GROUP, DETAILED THE PRACTICE OF ATTENDANCE AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE JAPANESE TO BE PRESENT WHEN THE GROUP CONSIDERED CANDIDACIES. FURTHER HE STATED THAT JAPAN, A MEMBER OF THE AFRO/ASIAN GROUP, WAS ALREADY ENDORSED AS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AND THAT BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS THE PHILIPPINES AND THE FINNS WERE IN COMPETITION FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE.

2. THE CHAIRMAN IMMEDIATELY RULED ON THIS MATTER AND ASKED MR. TERADA TO WITHDRAW. THIS HE DID WITH ALL THE DIGNITY HE COULD MUSTER IN AN OBVIOUSLY MOST EMBARRASSING SITUATION.

3. FOLLOWING MR. TERADA'S DEPARTURE, THE CHAIRMAN WHEN
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QUESTIONED BY THE UK STATED THAT HE HAD NOT INVITED THE

JAPANESE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THIS MEETING. AMBASSADOR DE PINIES REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THAT TWICE DURING THE SPANISH CHAIRMANSHIP IN MAY HE HAD INFORMED THE JAPANESE REP BEFORE THOSE MEETINGS THAT HE WOULD CHALLENGE HIS PRESENCE AND IN BOTH CASES THE JAPANESE REP WITHDREW BEFORE THE MEETING. AFTER FURTHER GENERAL DISCUSSION WEOG AGREED THAT THE SUBJECT OF JAPANESE ATTENDANCE AT FUTURE MEETINGS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING OF THE GROUP. AND THAT JAPANESE FUTURE PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED IF AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT WAS ON THE AGENDA.

4. COMMENT: WITH THE PAST BACKGROUND, THE JAPANESE RAN A CONSIDERABLE RISK IN SENDING MR. TERADA TO THIS MEETING, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THAT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN THE AFRO/ASIAN GROUP AND THE WEOG WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. THE ENDORSEMENT OF GROUP CHOICES IS WITHIN THE UN A SENSITIVE AND COMPETITIVE AREA AND IN THIS CASE A DECISION TO ASK MR. TERADA TO WITHDRAW IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, THE BRUSQUENESS OF THE EJECTION WAS PERHAPS A LITTLE HARSH. SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING USUN MISOFF TALKED TO TERADA WHO EXPLAINED THAT JAPANESE MOTIVATIONS WERE INNOCENT AND THAT WHEN HE HAD REPORTED BACK TO HIS MISSION, MR. TERADA WAS SYMPATHETICALLY TREATED. MISOFF INFORMED TERADA THAT WE SHARED HIS EMBARRASSMENT BUT HAD TO AGREE WITH THE BASIC POSITION TAKEN BY WEOG.
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